

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are canceled and claims 11-46 are added. The new claims are supported by the original claims and by the specification. No new matter has been added. For example, claim 11 is supported by page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 5 and by page 5, lines 10-14; claims 12 and 13 are supported by page 4, lines 22-24; claims 14 and 15 are supported by page 4, lines 13-15; claim 17 is supported by page 4, lines 5-11; and claim 19 is supported by page 4, line 6. Additional detailed support can be provided at the Examiner's request. Regarding the lower limit for glycerin in claim 43, support is on page 10, Table I.

The specification has been amended to delete an obvious error.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite because of use of the word "small". The word does not appear in the new claims.

All the claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Hernandez (ES 2,131,006). The rejection is traversed. ES '006 does not teach an enzyme stabilizing agent, which is recited in the new claims. Hernandez recognizes the potential problem of enzyme inactivation at elevated temperatures and solved the problem by using a two-component chewing gum wherein the enzyme is in a coating which surrounds the gum base; i.e., the enzyme is not exposed to the temperatures needed to prepare the gum base because it is processed separately and then coated on the base. This is explained in col. 4, last paragraph, which translates in part: "...the chewing gum is presented in the form of a coated tablet in which the coating contains the papain. Because said enzyme is deactivated at temperatures above 60°C, the papain cannot be added directly to the gum base during chewing gum manufacture." (A full translation of this reference is being obtained and will be forwarded to the Examiner in support of this argument.) Thus, ES '006 cannot anticipate the present claims.

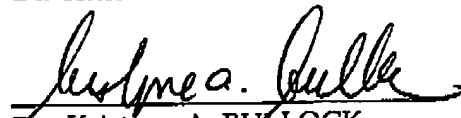
The claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over ES '006 in view of Rapp (United States Patent No. 6,180,143). The rejection is traversed. ES '006 is discussed above. Since Rapp is silent on the use of enzyme, the use of an enzyme stabilizer is irrelevant to Rapp; therefore, it adds nothing to the Examiner's argument.

It is requested that the amendment be entered and that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the amendment and Remarks and that the case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Du-Thumm *et al.*

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By: Kristyne A. BULLOCK

Reg. No. 42,371

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY

909 River Road; P.O. Box 1343

Piscataway, NJ 08855-1343

Telephone (732) 878-6002